

The Daily Courant.

Tuesday, June 15. 1708

London, June 15.

The Conclusion of the Author of the *Mercurie galante's* Account of the present State of the War.

I proceed to the Affairs of Germany that relate to the War. 'Twas not for want of Will in the Emperour that some Effects of his Ordinary Violence did not break out in the Diet of Ratisbon; for he sent an Imperial Decree to the Duke of Hannover to compel the Diet at Ratisbon to furnish extraordinary Contributions, in order to hire Troops for augmenting the Army on the Rhine; but that Duke did not think fit to send that Decree to Ratisbon, that he might not irritate the Diet against himself, being oblig'd to keep fair with that Assembly, because he expects one Day to be admitted into it in the Quality of Ninth Elector: So there is no Cause to believe, that the Army of the Empire will be stronger than that commanded by the Elector of Bavaria; Which will be considerable, and has just been reinforced by new Troops, among them by the Regiment of Lyonnais, which is one of the best of France.

As for the Army of the Moselle, 'tis a Project the Allies form'd but very lately; and being started before they had any Forces to make up that Army, Prince Eugene was empower'd, in his Return to Vienna to treat in divers Courts for Troops; but the greatest Part of those Negotiations not taking Effect, 'tis not likely, that if there should be an Army on that Side, it will be of more than 18 or 20000 Men: But no Stores being provided for that Army, because the Scheme is but of Yesterday, in all Appearance the Allies should entertain no great Hope, and the two Crowns but little Fear from it. They say that Army is to be commanded by Prince Eugene, who is now at Vienna, whence he has not yet sent away any of his Equipage. In the meantime the Elector of Bavaria, who neglects nothing, has detach'd some Troops towards the Moselle under the command of M. de St. Fremont. In the Course of Time we shall learn more of that Army, which in all Appearance cannot be considerable, because it would want every thing, and besides it was only contriv'd for a Phantom to scare us, and oblige us to make Detachments from our Armies to that Side, the Allies believing that such a Diversion might be useful to them, by weakening the Forces that are to act in other Parts: But all this is only seeking to defend themselves, not to attack.

Notwithstanding 'twas given out when the Archduchess went from Vienna that she was going directly for Catalonia, 'twas only to make the World believe that Affairs are in a better Condition in that Country than in reality they are: If She actually goes thither, she may find at her Arrival the Archduke no longer Master of any one Place; and Provisions are so scarce in that Province, that instead of carrying Joy thither, she would carry Famine, because of her numerous Household. In short, arriving in Catalonia she will see nothing but Sieges, or be besieged herself. 'Tis therefore probable she will stay at Milan till the Issue of Affairs in Catalonia. In Policy she ought not to go farther than the Milanese, because if she take one Step forwarder, She will be no longer treated as a Queen, but that Title will be left out of the Compliments that will be made to Her. So that, in all Likelihood, her Royalty will end in the Milanese: The Conclusion of the War will bring it to a short Date.

I seldom take any Notice of the Affairs of the Confederates of Hungary, because they are sufficiently known by the publick News. Yet I will now observe, that the Emperour succeeds no better on that Side by Negotiations, than by Force of Arms; and that the Diet of Presbourg, far from acting in his Favour as he hop'd, have made new Complaints

and demanded Satisfaction for new Grievances, of which they have drawn up Remonstrances. So that 'tis not probable the Emperour will gain any Advantage by that Assembly, nor that he will be more fortunate in the Field.

As for England; they threaten much, and we act without threatening. They exaggerate every thing, and all the Accounts from thence are full of Lifts of the Ships that are to make a Descent upon France: But while these Threats are blaz'd abroad with Ostentation, the Count de Forbin and M. du Gue put out of Dunkirk and Breft with strong Squadrons without making any Boasts, and perhaps will both have perform'd great Expeditions, and be come back agen, before the threatening Fleets get out of Harbour; and if that should be, as is very likely, their Squadrons may baffle the Designs of the English, who are in continual Apprehensions of the Scots, and oblig'd to keep a watchful Eye upon them.

As for the Condition Holland is in at this Time, 'tis infinitely worse than at the Beginning of the present War; when all that they had suffer'd from the Year 1672. had not intirely exhausted their Treasures. They could still fit out large Fleets, and send numerous Forces into the Field. They could without Difficulty find out Funds every Year for the Occasions of the War; and were not perplex'd about it for several Months before the opening of every Campaign. Though Money was not so plentiful among them as heretofore, yet it was not scarce with them, and Commerce was carry'd on, though with less Profit than in Times of Peace. But now all this is chang'd; Holland can no longer fit out considerable Fleets: hardly can they furnish Ships of War to joyn the English, when the two Nations resolve to unite their Naval Forces, for the Advancement of their common Affairs, and for some Years past the Number of Men of War furnish'd by Holland does not amount to one third of those of England. They are not able as formerly, to settle the necessary Funds as soon as the Service and the Sums were propos'd: The States are frequently assembled several Months to find out those Funds, and at last separate without intirely providing for them. I do not seek to lessen our Enemies; I do not vent Fictions; the Facts are publick, and known to all Europe. The Affairs of Commonwealths, which are treated in general Assemblies, are never kept so secret, but the greatest Part takes Air. So that the Publick are almost always inform'd what Condition those Affairs are in: And therefore I say what is certain and avow'd, when I affirm that the Dutch can no longer find annual Funds for continuing the War.

'Tis certain, that the scarcity of Money among them can proceed from no other Cause than a total Decay of Commerce, or at least from the little Commerce they have at present; for their Commerce is main'd in all its Parts, and they have none at all with the Spaniards, which alone is sufficient to make the present Condition of their Affairs very different from what it was formerly.

I must Add to all this, that for some Years divers Provinces have caus'd their Deputies to declare to the States-general, that they cannot contribute to the Charge of the War; that they have in part kept their Word, and that their Remonstrances having been publish'd in Holland have thereby come to be known to all Europe. These are Facts not to be contested, and 'twould be Folly to offer to assert the contrary; besides, had these Affairs been transacted so secretly in the Assembly of the States as to be wholly conceal'd from the Publick, the Poverty of several Provinces of Holland cannot be hid; and the levying of Money in them for the Occasions of the State could not cease, but that Cessation must be manifest.

Before the present War, the Dutch were in perfect Union with France, and Philip V. was pleas'd to

to forget they were rebellious Subjects; In a word, all that the 2 Crowns had promis'd them, ought to have Satisfied them they should enjoy uninterrupted Tranquility, which would have made their Trade flourish, and would have enabled them to recover what the preceeding Wars had cost them; but those who then govern'd them, studying to enrich themselves in Disorders and Confusions, engag'd their Commonwealth to make War against a Monarch whom they had acknowledg'd for lawful King of Spain, and to cease to treat him as such, which will be a blot of Infamy upon them to all future Ages. Some cross Turns of Fortune that have befall'n France during this War, made them at first hope for some great Advantages to their Commonwealth; but they soon perceiv'd that what had happen'd to the Disadvantage of the two Crowns might one Day turn to their own Ruine, seeing if the English should become too powerful, they would soon endeavour to subdue them, because of the Rivalship for Commerce that has always been between the two Nations. This is the present Condition of Holland; that is to say, the Country is ruin'd, almost destitute of Men and Money, in fear of being subdued by the English should they become too powerful, or by the Troops of the two Crowns if Victory should return to their side. To conclude, Peace cannot come too soon for their Relief, and when they shall have the Happyness to enjoy it, they will find it a Work of several Ages to recover their Losses, to make their Commerce flourish anew, and to bring back Money into their Provinces, which are quite drain'd of it.

London, May 15.

Yesterday arriv'd from Holland the Mail of Tuesday last. That of the Friday before, and that of last Friday, are still behind.

From the Antwerp Courant, dated June 19.

Bascarrá, June 4. The Duke de Noailles continues encamp'd with his Army near Gironne. The Enemy who are posted on the other Side of the Ter, are making strong Intrenchments on the Bank of that River for 6 Miles in Extent, and have broken down the Bridges of Amer and Roda. The Day before Yesterday and Yesterday, the French attempted under the Fire of their Cannon to lay a Bridge over the Ter; but the Catalonians by cannonading hinder'd their Design, and sunk 3 of their Pontons. Yesterday 2 Regiment of Foot, coming from Roses, pass'd through here to joyn the French Army. By Order of the Duke de Noailles, the Fortifications of this Place and of Navarra are demolish'd.

From the Amsterdam Courant, dated June 19.

Genoa, June 2. We have Advice from Nizza, that the Fleet under Admiral Leake is arriv'd at Barcelona; which was known by the Fires made from Place to Place along the Coast by Order of the French Court. Of 120 Barks and 3 Convoys, which sail'd from Toulon for Valencia, the Fleet under Admiral Leake took 90 Barks and 1 of the Convoys [call'd the Medusa] and the rest made back to Toulon. A French Felucca is seiz'd here, which on Wednesday last took from under the Cannon of this City a Genoese Felucca having on board Passengers and Letters for King Charles, which Letters the French Captain brought and deliver'd to the French Resident here. The Men belonging to the French Felucca are put in Irons aboard our Gallies; after 4 of them were kill'd by Stones flung into the Felucca by the Populace, and several Wounded. The Imperial Minister demands Satisfaction, and that the Letters be restor'd; and the French Resident demands that his Master's Subjects be set at Liberty.

Genoa, June 3. We have an Account, that the Fleet under the Admirals Leake and Wassenaer, consisting of 36 Men of War, 12 Frigates, 8 Fireships, 10 Bomb-Vessels, 3 Hospital Ships, 1 Advice-Boat, 86 Transports, and 12 Merchant-Ships, arriv'd at Barcelona the 22d of May; and would speedily proceed hither.

From the Harlem Courant, dated June 19.

Genoa, June 3. A Bark is just arriv'd from the Confederate Fleet with an Account, that 140 or 150 Barks laden with Corn &c, under Convoy of 3 Men of War, fell in with the Fleet under Sir John Leake,

and were all taken but 5 or 6 Barks and 2 of the Convoys, which are return'd to Toulon.

From the Amsterdam Courant, dated June 19.

Amsterdam, June 18. By Letters from Marfeilles we learn, that of 130 Barks which fell in with the Fleet under Admiral Leake, not 30 were return'd back.

From the Leiden Courant, dated June 20.

Paris, June 15. They write from Madrid, that they had Advice from Catalonia, that Admiral Leake had landed 2 Regiments of English at Barcelona; and was sail'd for Genoa to fetch more Troops: That M. de Framboiffer, after the Defeat of above 4000 Men under his Command, with which he was appointed to keep open a Communication between the two Armies of the Duke of Orleans and Navales, retir'd with what were left to Monzon; but being closely pursu'd, he abandon'd that Place, leaving the Castle Garrison'd by 80 Men, who on the Approach of the Enemy, surrender'd to them, as did afterwards Balbastro, Graus, Foss, Rilla, and other Places in Arragon.

From the Paris Gazette, dated June 16.

Strasbourg, June 7. The 2d of this Month the Elector of Bavaria having pass'd the Rhine with most of his Troops, sent to get Intelligence of the Enemy's Army; and an Account was brought him, that they having Advice of his Passage had drawn all their Troops into their Lines. His Electoral Highness went and lay the 4th at Raftad. He had Advice, that the Duke of Hanover arriv'd the 3d near Francfort, and was to be at the Head of the Army of the Empire the 5th.

From the Antwerp Courant, dated June 19.

Paris, June 15. 'Tis advis'd from Strasbourg the 7th Instant, that the Elector of Bavaria was with our Army on the other side of the Rhine, and that he had sent a second Detachment towards the Moselle. 'Tis rumour'd he is now return'd to this side of that River, to find another strong Detachment to the Saar. They write from Marfeilles, that the Duke of Turis was arriv'd there from Genoa with his 6 Gallies, and had brought thither the 4 Gallies of Naples, whose Officers ('tis rumour'd) had laid a Design to put into some Port belonging to King Charles; but being discover'd, they were on their Arrival at Marfeilles put as common Rowers on board our 12 Gallies there. 'Tis given out here, that of our Convoy which sail'd with Provisions from Toulon for Spain, and were met by Admiral Leake, 40 or 50 Barks escap'd into the Ports of Valencia. By Letters of the 2d Instant from the Camp of the Duke of Orleans at Ginestar, we are told, that a Bridge was laid over the Ebro, but that the Army was not to march towards Tortosa till the 6th or 7th, because the Siege of that Place cannot be undertaken, before the arrival of the Artillery expected from Bayone. In the mean time the Duke of Orleans had caus'd Men to be set to Work to make some Fortifications and Intrenchments on a Hill half a Mile from his Camp over against Miraver, which Works were to be guarded by 8 Battalions and 2 Squadrons, to secure the Navigation of our Vessels with Provisions on the Ebro.

The Elector of Bavaria, having re-pass'd the Rhine, with his Army, is come down to Saar-Louis; in Order to make Head against the Army under Prince Eugene; leaving the Duke of Berwick and M. du Bourg, with 15 or 16000 Men, in the Lines of Lauterbourg, to cover Alsace.

The Elector of Hanover went from Francfort the 10th of June to the Army of the Empire: 'Tis believ'd he will pass the Rhine, to make a Diversion; and hinder the Enemy's sending a greater Number of Troops to the Moselle. P. Eugene of Savoy is at Slangenbach, where he will spend a few Days till the Army on the Moselle is intirely form'd. The Enemy ravage all the Country on the Saar and Moselle, to deprive the Allies of Subsistence.

The Armies in Flanders continue in their former Posts.

At the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this present Tuesday, being the 15th of June, will be presented a Comedy call'd, The London Cuckolds. The parts of Randle by Mr. Mills, Townly by Mr. Husband, Love-day by Mr. Keen, Doodle by Mr. Johnson, Wiscacre by Mr. Bullock, Dabswell by Mr. Norris, Eugenia by Mrs. Kent, Arabella by Mrs. Moor, Peggy by Miss Norris, Regin by Mrs. Powell, Jane by Mrs. Mills. And all the other parts to the best Advantage.